

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CPR-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:MCRAMERUS:JL
APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR
NSC - RHUNTER
-----100525 211431Z /15
R 210143Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: GET READY FOR MINTOFF

1. MALTESE CHARGE AGIUS INFORMED EUR/WE JANUARY 19 THAT HE AND VICTOR GAUCI WERE "TRYING TO PERSUADE" MINTOFF TO VISIT US. HE STATED THAT HABIB'S ILLNESS HAD CONVINCED GAUCI THAT MINTOFF MUST COME TO US HIMSELF.
 2. AGIUS STATED THAT MINTOFF WOULD, OF COURSE, EXPECT TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, AND ASKED IF OFFICIAL INVITATION COULD BE ARRANGED. HIS REQUEST WAS NOTED AND HE WAS INFORMED THAT INQUIRIES WOULD BE MADE.
 3. FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH, AGIUS MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF MINTOFF'S VISIT. AGIUS STATED THAT MINTOFF WAS ANNOYED AT UNRESPONSIVENESS OF FRENCH AND ITALIANS AND WISHED TO PERSUADE US TO PUT PRESURE ON THEM TO YIELD TO MALTA'S DEMANDS FOR ECONOMIC
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ASSISTANCE. MINTOFF HAS ASKED THAT THE GERMANS "LOBBY" ITALIANS AND FRENCH, AND GERMANS HAD AGREED TO DO SO. TO DATE, GERMAN EFFORTS HAD FAILED TO CHANGE THE ITALIAN/FRENCH ATTITUDE. SHOULD THE US ASSIST THE GERMANS IN LOBBYING

THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH, THEY WOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING. AGIUS ADDED THAT DIRECT US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS NOT

DESIRED, AS ASSISTANCE BY EITHER "SUPERPOWER" WOULD
BE A BREACH OF MALTESE NEUTRALITY.

4. AGIUS THEN DISCLOSED THAT CBS HAD APPROACHED HIM TO
REQUEST AN INTERVIEW WITH MINTOFF ON "60 MINUTES." HE
STATED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE THE PM TO AGREE,
BUT THAT THE PM IS USUALLY RELUCTANT TO GIVE INTERVIEWS.

5. PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS EXTREMELY CROWDED AND IT IS
EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT HE COULD MEET WITH MINTOFF THIS
YEAR. WE SEE NO BASIS FOR OFFICIAL INVITATION ANY
TIME IN 1978. END FYI.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: PDIP, MT, US, (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
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